

Message Text

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REQUEST DEPARTMENT PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE UPI NEW YORK

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SUBJECT: MESSAGE FOR UPI

"PRESS URGENT PRIORITY COLLECT

RCA GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS INC. "WORLDWIDE"

CREDIT CARD NUMBER UR 877 036 126 UR

TO: UPI
FM: RICHARD H. GROWALD, FILING FROM VIENTIANE

SLUG: SUNDAYER - HANOI

2 1ST ADD SUNDAYER HANOI XXX HAVE ENVIED.

KISSINGER RODE TO DESTINY IN A PRESIDENTIAL JET COMPLETE WITH
PRVIAITE STATEROOM AND GALLEY. THE CARTER FIVE CROSSED THE
PACIFIC IN AN ALMOST WINDOWLESS TRANSPORT AND MUNCHED
SANDWICHES ELBOW TO ELBOW WITH SERGEANTS AND REPORTERS.
KISSINGER MOVED IN SPLENDOR ATTENDED BY DEPUTY AND ASSISTANT
SECRETARIES OF STATE. THE HIGHEST-RANKING DIPLOMAT WITH THE FIVE
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WAS THE DEPARTMENT'S INDOCHINA DESK CHIEF, JAMES ROSENTHAL, A
FELLOW SO UNFLASHY THAT HIS ONLY SOUVENIR OF HANOI WAS A
VIETNAMESE DICTIONARY.

KISSINGER DELIGHTED IN TRUMPETING HIS FEATS BEFORE THE
CAMERAS AND 24-HOUR SECURITY COMMUNICATION TEAMS FLASHED HIS
EVERY DEED BACK TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

WHEN THE FIVE MADE THEIR DEED PUBLIC AT A HANOI NEWS CONFER-
ENCE LARGELY PEOPLED BY SEMI-INTERESTED AND NON-ENGLISH SPEAK-
ING COMMUNIST JOURNALISTS, THEY DECIDED THEY BETTER TELEGRAPH
THEIR ANNOUNCEMENT BACK TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

BUT THEY COULD NOT. THE FIVE AND THEIR AIDES POOLED THEIR VIETNAMESE MONEY AND FOUND THEY DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH CASH TO PAY FOR THE CABLE TO WASHINGTON.

MORE RHG

2ND ADD SUNDAYER HANOI XXX TO WASHINGTON.

NO WHERE DID A BAND OR AN HONOR GUARD SHOW UP FOR THE FIVE. NO WHERE DID A FLAG WAVE AT THEM. NO FLOWER GIRLS. NO KISSING. AND THEIR FIRST STOP WAS GRIM.

CARTER HADDISPATCHED THE FIVE TO SEEK MORE DATA ON THE 2,550 AMERICANS STILL LISTED AS MISSING IN THE INDOCHINA WAR. HE ALSO GAVE THEM A LETTER FOR VIETNAM'S PREMIER AND COMMUNIST LEADER, PHAM VAN DONG. THE LETTER TRIGGERED A BIT OF RED CHEEKS LATER BUT THE FIRST STOP MAY HAVE BEEN THE ROUGHEST.

IT WAS HAWAII AND OF COURSE NO ONE MET THEM WITH LEIS BUT A COLONEL TOOK THEM A ROUND TO THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT'S JOINT CASUALTY RESOLUTION CENTER, THE MORGUE FOR THE REMNANTS OF THE VIETNAM WAR. THEY WERE SHOWN BONE FRAGMENTS AND DECOMPOSED FLESH AND THEN SERVED A LUNCH NONE OF THEM FELT MUCH LIKE EATING.

BACK ABOARD THE PLANE, FORMER SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MIKE MANSFIELD READ A PAPERBACK NOVEL, "ONCE AN EAGLE". BEYOND THE PHILIPPINES HE PAUSED TWO MINUTES, 25 SECONDS TO CUT AND EAT A SLICE OF A CAKE THE AIR FORCE CREW PRESENTED FOR HIS 74TH BIRTHDAY.

FORMER U.N. AMBASSADOR CHARLES YOST LOADED HIS CAMERA WITH FILM. RS. MARIAN WRIGHT EDELMAN CAUGHT UP WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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3RD ADD SUNDAYER HANOI XXX CAUGHT UP WITH
CAUGHT UP WITH PAPER WORK FOR HER CHILDRENS DEFENSE FUND.

PRESIDENT LEONARD WOODCOCK OF THE UNITED AUTO WORKERS, CHAIRMAN OF THE SPECIAL PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION, READ THE NEW YORKER AND ANY NEWSPAPER ANYONE BROUGHT ABOARD. THE STATE DEPARTMENT USED TO RADIO EVEN THE NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE AND BALLGAME SCORES TO KISSINGER'S PLANE.

REP. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY, D-MISS., RE-READ THE ERBACK-SIZED REPORT ISSUED BY HIS HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON MIA'S; GRIM STUFF. HE CHECKED TO MAKE SURE THE CREW HAD BROUGHT ALONG THE 12 AMERICAN FLAGS FOR THE DOZEN BODIES THE FIVE HOPED TO RECEIVE IN HANOI. THEY HAD.

AS THEIR PLANE BUMPED DOWN AT HANOI -- THE FILLING OF ONE AMERICAN BOMB CRATER WAS NOT QUITE FLAT -- WOODCOCK MADE A COMMENT. HE IS NOT GIVEN TO CHATTER. HE SAID HE HOPED THEY WOULD NOT BE MET BY VIETNAMESE HOLDING THE REMAINS OF THE 12.

FOR SUCH A GREETING WOULD BE ALSO A FAREWELL.
THE MISSING IN ACTION, THAT UNDYING HANGOVER FROM THE PAST,
WAS BUT ONE MISSION OF THE FIVE; WOODCOCK WANTED TALKING
TIME WITH THE VIETNAMESE TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE. MORE RHG
4TH ADD SUNDAYER HANOI XXX THE FUTURE.
NO BOXES MET THE PLANE. THE VIETNAMESE WOULD TALK.

A VIETNAMESE ARMY OFFICER BOARDED THE C141 STARLIFTER, TOOK ONE LOOK AT THE PASSENGERS SEATED UNDER A LEAKY AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM AND FACING A CARGO COMPARTMENT SEPARATED FROM THE FIVE ONLY BY A HANG CLOTH. HE MOTIONED TOWARD THE OPEN DOOR. TWO VIETNAMESE PROTOCOL OFFICERS SMILED AND SHOOK THE HANDS OF THE FIVE. THEN, TO THE SURPRISE OF THE FIVE'S DIPLOMATIC AIDES, A DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER STRODE UP.

MORE HANDSHAKES AND SMILES AND PROCESSION TO A LINE OF RUSSIAN VOLGA AUTOS FOR THE SIX MILE RIDE INTO HANOI ACROSS THE TWO-MILE-LONG LONG BIEN BRIDGE, SO PATCHED AFTER U.S. BOMB DAMAGE.

THE HOSTS SAID NOTHING ABOUT THE DISAPPEARING SIGNS OF BOMB DAMAGE IN THE CAPITAL'S IINDUSTRIAL SUBURBS WHERE A STEEL PLANT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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ALL GRIME AND POLLUTION, ROSE NEXT TO RICE PADDIES IN WHICH WATER BUFFALOES STOOD IN KNEE DEEP WATER. NOTHING CRUDE. IT WENT THAT WAY. THE VIETNAMESE WERE PUTTING THEIR BEST FOOT AND HAND FORWARD. NO VIETNAMESE, NOT EVEN THE CHEERFUL TOUR GUIDES SEEKING TO SHEPHERD THE REPORTERS, SO MUCH AS HINTED ANYONE IN HANOI REGARDS AMERICA AS A 5TH ADD SUNDAYER HANOI XXX AS A AS A BEASTLY FOE.

THEY MENTIONED THE BOMBING BUT MORE IN SORROW THAN IN ANGER. HANOI WAS READY FOR A CHANGE. THE FIVE ACTED.

THEY LED A DOUBLE LIFE AT THE CONFERENCE TABLE. SOME TIME THEY DEVOTED TO THE MISSING, THE MEN OF THE PAST. THERE CAME THAT DREADFUL SHOWING OF THE 12 BLACK BOXES IN A CONFUSING QUARTER HOUR IN A SUBURBAN CEMETERY KNOWN IN HANI STREET PARLANCE AS HELL.

THE FIVE WON AGREEMENT FROM THE VIETNAMESE FOR A COORDINATED AND CONTINUING SEARCH FOR MORE MISSING. THE PAST THUS SERVED, THE FIVE DEALT WITH THE FUTURE. AN AIDE FORGOT TO FETCH CARTER'S LETTER WHEN THE FIVE DROVE TO DONG'S PALACE FOR WHAT HAD BEEN EXPECTED TO BE A LITTLE MORE THAN A ROUTINE DIPLOMATIC DROP-IN. THE LETTER RETRIEVED FROM THE FIVE'S GUEST HOUSE, WOODCOCK HANDED IT TO DONG. THE PREMIER SMILED AND SAID, "I AM INDEED VERY PLEASED TO MEET YOU TODAY BECAUSE YOU COME TO US WITH GOODWILL AND, AS I UNDERSTAND, PRESIDENT CARTER'S WISH TO SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS IN A NEW SPIRIT."

MORE6TH ADD SUNDAYER HANOI XXX SPIRIT." THE VICTOR OF SAIGON SAT THERE, A SMALL POLITE SMILE ON HIS FACE. WOODCOCK, PRIMED BY HALF A WORLD JOURNEY OF DISCUSSIONS WITH THE OTHER FOUR, LEANED TOWARD DONG AND NODDED. "AND IF SO, I SEE NOT OBSTACLE TO OUR RESOLVING THEPROBLEMS," DONG SAID. WOODCOCK REPLIED, "TOO LONG HAVE TRAGIC EVENTS KEPT OUR COUNTRIES APART." DONG'S SMILE WIDENED. HE RAISED HIS HEAD AND LOOKED STRAIGHT AT WOODCOCK.

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EAST WAS MEETING WEST.

DELIGHTED DIPLOMATIC AIDES SAID WOODCOCK PROVED TOUGH AND SHARP IN CROSSTABLE DEALING WITH DONG'S AIDES IN DETAILED SESSIONS. THEY SAID MANSFIELD INJECTED HIMSELF AT KEY MOMENTS TO SUMMARIZE AND PRESS HOME A U.S. VIEW AND MRS. EDELMAN DISPLAYED AN INTELLIGENCE POSSIBLY SUPERIOR TO THE MALES AND YOST LENT HIS EXPERTISE AS A FORMER AMBASSADOR TO LAOS AND SONNY MONTGOMERY WAS IN THERE PITCHING FOR THE MIA FAMILIES. AT VISIT'S END THE FIVE GOT A LETTER FROM DONG TO CARTER. THE FIVE HAD OPENED THEWAY FOR NORMAL U.S. - VIETNAMESE RELATIONS.
EAT YOUR HEART OUT, HENRY KISSINGER. ENDIT RHG CORCORAN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED UPI.

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